



STOP SIGNS

A stop sign is one of our most valuable and effective control devices when used at the right place and under the right conditions. It is intended to help drivers and pedestrians at an intersection decide who has the right-of-way.

One common misuse of stop signs is to arbitrarily interrupt through traffic, either by causing it to stop, or by causing such an inconvenience as to force the traffic to use other routes. Where stop signs are installed as "nuisances" or "speed breakers," there is a high incidence of intentional violation. In those locations where vehicles do stop, the speed reduction is effective only in the immediate vicinity of the stop sign, and frequently speeds are actually higher between intersections. For these reasons, it should not be used as a speed control device.



A school crossing may look dangerous for children to use, causing parents to demand a stop sign to halt traffic. Now a vehicle which had been a problem for 3 seconds while approaching and passing the intersection becomes a problem for a much longer period. A situation of indecision is created as to when to cross as a pedestrian or when to start as a motorist. Normal gaps in traffic through which crossings could be made safely no longer exist. An intersection which previously was not busy now looks like a major intersection. It really isn't -- it just looks like it. It doesn't even look safer and it usually isn't.

Most drivers are reasonable and prudent with no intention of deliberately violating traffic regulations; however, when an unreasonable restriction is imposed, it may result in flagrant violations. In such cases, the stop sign can create a false sense of security in a pedestrian and an attitude of contempt in a motorist. These two attitudes can and often do conflict, sometimes with tragic results.

The City follows established well-developed, nationally recognized guidelines to indicate when stop signs

become necessary. These guidelines identify specific traffic and pedestrian volumes, accident history, sight distance, and any unusual conditions at the intersection.

Criteria for Two-Way Stop Signs –

Two-way stop signs are used:

- Where a street enters a through street; or
- Where a safe approach speed is less than 10 mph due to permanent visibility obstructions -- such as buildings, trees or shrubs; or
- Where crash history indicates three or more reported crashes in a 12 month period, and the crashes could have been avoided by the use of a stop sign; or
- Where circumstances and crash history indicate that observing the normal right-of-way rule could still be hazardous, resulting in crashes.

4-WAY

Criteria for Four-Way or All-Way Stops:

In most cases, a two-way stop sign is sufficient to define who has the right-of-way. A four-way or all-way stop is considered only when an intersection with a two-way stop is the site of numerous crashes or traffic congestion problems. Four-way stop signs are used:

- Where traffic signals are needed; four-way or all-way stops may be used as an interim measure; or
- On local streets, where there has been an average five or more reported crashes per year. These crashes would likely have been prevented by an all-way stop; or
- Where the number of vehicles entering an intersection averages at least 500 vehicles per hour for any eight hours of a typical day, and the combined vehicular and pedestrian volumes from the minor street averages at least 200 per hour for the same eight hours.

Advantages of Approved Stop Signs:

- Stop signs establish right-of-way.
- The number of broadside accidents is reduced.

Disadvantages of Stop Signs:

- Acceleration and deceleration increase noise and air pollution near the signs.
- The frequency of rear-end accidents is likely to increase.
- Stop signs cause unnecessary delay.

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Citizen Concerns

The City takes its role in responding to traffic concerns very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests on you, the motorist in the City of Troy. We will respond to every traffic concern you have. Since we receive over 600 citizen concerns per year, we may not be able to investigate your request as quickly as we would like to. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.

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Why Don't They Put In
More Stop Signs??



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